Objection raised by ECL for setting up a new satellite township in Burdwan, West Bengal

594. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited have since raised objections for setting up a new satellite township at Mangalpur, in P.S. Raniganj, District Burdwan, West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government has since decided to go ahead with the plan; and

(d) if so, what is the Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The land in Mangalpur, where the Government of West Bengal proposes to set up a new satellite township, contains huge reserves of high quality coal to the extent of 71 mllion tonnes. In case, township is allowed to be set up on this land, valuable coal would be locked up to the detriment of the economy of the State and the Country. The Eastern Coalfields Limited has therefore, pleaded for setting up of the township on some other alternative land.

(c) and (d) The Central Government is not aware whether the West Bengal Govt. has taken any final decision to go ahead with the plan. This matter was discussed in a meeting taken by the Minister for land & Land Revenue, Govt. of West Bengal, on 19-7-89, in which Chairman-cum-Managing Director, ECL objected to the setting up of the proposed satellite township; but it appear that the West Bengal Govt. has not given up its plan to go ahead with the setting up of the aforesaid township.

Stabilisation of underground voids

595. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 80 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the method of stabilisation of underground voids has since been applied to the 13 subsidence cases; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) An action Plan on the basis of the Ramjibanpur experiment for stabilisation of old, unapproachable underground voids in the Raniganj area has been prepared by Eastern Coalfields Ltd. *in consultation* with the Regional Institute of the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. at Asansol. The plan after approval will be implemented in stages according to the availability of funds.

Soviet aid to Thermal Power Plants

596. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2674 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th March, 1989 and State:

(a) whether the location of the Thermal Power Station has since been identified;

(b) if not what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) if it has been identified, what steps have since been taken to start work on the proect?